GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1541
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2005
. STUDY ON FUNCTIONING OF NFFWP
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study conducted in respect of the working of the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) has revealed that muster rolls were either absent or fudged in five out of six States which were subjected to the study;

(b) if so, the name of States in respect of which such study was conducted and by which agency the same was made;

(c) whether the Government had conducted such a study through an independent agency before going in for enactment of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken under the NREGA to prevent such draining out of resources?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) & (b): No such study has been got conducted by the Ministry. However, a study conducted jointly by Delhi University and JNU has indicated some shortcomings in the implementation of the National Food for Work Programme in the six Districts of six States namely Madhya Pradesh (Badwani), Rajasthan (Dungarpur), Jharkhand (Palamau), West Bengal (Purulia), Uttar Pradesh(Sonebhadra) and Chattisgarh (Sarguja) where the study has been conducted. The findings of the study was published in an article in the `Times of India` dated 2nd July 2005 which highlights shortcomings like fudging of muster rolls and non payment of full minimum wages in some of the Districts. The findings of the study are not representative since it has taken sample size of only 10 works in one block per sample District and verified muster rolls only at one worksite per District. The sample so taken for the purpose can not be representative keeping in view the magnitude of the programme. However, the same study has also hailed the implementation of NFFWP in Dungarpur District of Rajasthan. Moreover, considering the magnitude of the programme that was launched only about seven months ago prior to the study, structures and processes envisaged for creating accountability for delivering the benefits intended in the programme may take some time to become fully effective and this itself will need constant, vigilant support from all quarters at every level.

(c) to (e): No Sir. However, for the purpose of formulating comprehensive Guidelines and Rules on NREGA, a process of intense and wide consultation has been initiated by the Ministry with experts, professionals, State Governments, NGOs so as to bring together a wide range of expertise and experience. Hon`ble Minister of Rural Development has written to all Chief Ministers, Members of Parliament, Rural Development Ministers of all States, all Political Parties and Experts requesting their suggestions to make the Guidelines and Rules more comprehensive and foolproof. Open advertisement in all leading News Papers has been published requesting common masses to send suggestions and their valuable opinion in this regard. In addition to this, focussed discussions with a wide range of professionals and practitioners are being held. All these are aimed at to make foolproof Guidelines and Rules of the NREGA that is expected to minimize leakage and corruption as well.